

*COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM
2008 FACT SHEET*

1. **GLOBAL:** Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) is one of the leading infectious killers of youth and adults. An estimated two billion persons (i.e., one third of the world's population) are infected with TB. Each year there are approximately nine million new cases of TB disease and two million TB-related deaths.
2. **NATIONAL:** Nationally, the number of TB cases in the United States has been declining for more than a decade. In 2008, a provisional total of 12,898 cases were reported nationwide, representing a 3% decrease from 13,288 cases in 2007. The proportion of cases among individuals born outside the United States increased from 42% of the national total in 1998 (7,599 cases) to 59% of the national total (7,541 cases) in 2008.
3. **SAN DIEGO:** San Diego County reported 264 cases of active TB in 2008 (case rate of 8.4 per 100,000 population). This represents a 6% decrease from 2007 (280 cases). The number of cases in 2008 was 44% lower than 1993 (469 cases), the year with the highest number of cases in decades.
4. **AGE:** The median age of TB cases in San Diego County was 44, and ranged from 1 to 90 years old. Persons aged 25 to 64 made up the largest group of TB cases with 161 (61%). However, the 65 and older age group (46 cases) had a higher case rate (12.9 per 100,000) compared with the 25-to-44 year old age group (8.7 per 100,000) and the 45-to-64 year old age group (11.0 per 100,000).
5. **RACE/ETHNICITY:** The racial and ethnic breakdown of San Diego County TB cases was 138 (52%) Hispanics, 82 (31%) Asian/Pacific Islanders, 25 (9%) non-Hispanic whites and 16 (6%) non-Hispanic blacks.
6. **BIRTH COUNTRY:** TB cases born outside of the United States comprised 71% of San Diego County's cases. Of the 187 foreign-born cases, 88 (47%) were from Mexico, 80 (43%) were from Asia (including 49 from the Philippines, and 13 from Viet Nam), and 10 (5%) were from Africa.
7. **CHILDREN:** There were 5 cases of TB reported among children less than five years of age in San Diego County (2% of all cases). This represents a 87% decrease from 1993 (39 cases), and a 67% decrease from the previous annual 5-year average (15 cases). TB in children of this age is of concern because it often represents recent transmission of infection from adults to children; however, more than 50% of cases in this age group are attributed to *Mycobacterium bovis*, which is usually acquired through consumption of unpasteurized dairy products.
8. **DRUG RESISTANCE:** TB drug susceptibility information was obtained on 100% of the 226 culture-proven cases in San Diego. Resistance to at least one of the four major first-line drugs was found among 21% (n=48) of these specimens. Multidrug-resistant (MDR TB) strains were found in 3 (1.3%) of the cases. During 1999-2008, a total of 40 MDR TB cases were reported in San Diego and none were extensively drug-resistant (XDR). Vigilance in diagnosing MDR TB and close monitoring of treatment is of extreme importance because of the difficulty in successfully treating such strains and the risk of spread within the community.
9. **BOVIS:** In San Diego, approximately 10% of TB cases are due to *Mycobacterium bovis*. Among culture-proven cases in 2008, a total of 20 had disease from *M. bovis*, including 4 children. Of 77 culture-proven cases in persons born in Mexico, 13 (17%) had *M. bovis*. Disease due to *M. bovis*, also known as bovine tuberculosis, is usually contracted through the consumption of unpasteurized dairy products. Person-to-person transmission is also believed to occur. Strategies to address both modes of transmission are important to overall tuberculosis control efforts in San Diego County.
10. **HIV:** HIV is the strongest known risk factor for TB disease once TB infection occurs. During 2006-2008, a total of 78 (9%) of the 859 persons reported with TB were also co-infected with HIV. HIV test results were known for 592 (69%) of the 859 persons reported with TB; however, this percentage increased to 89% among 18-55 year olds, the age group accounting for more than 85% of co-infected cases.